

6962 Golden Mesa
Santa Fe, NM 87507

February 13, 2011

Blue Ribbon Commission
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Blue Ribbon Commissioners:

I oppose disposing high-level waste at WIPP for a number of reasons.

First, the Federal Government agreed NOT to bring high-level waste to WIPP in exchange for New Mexico agreeing to receive the low-level waste.

Second, New Mexico already has more than its share of risks from the nuclear industry. The Rio Grande and our ground water already contain toxins from the Los Alamos and Sandia Labs. Some people living near the WIPP site might see this proposal as a chance to provide a few more jobs, but I see it as environmental injustice--dumping waste on minority and low-income populations.

Third, the theory that salt will safely encase waste containers is based on the salt being dry. But the salt at WIPP is not dry, and wet salt will eventually corrode the waste containers.

Fourth, the karst formations at WIPP could quickly spread any leakage into the ground water and Pecos River, affecting not only New Mexico but also Texas and Mexico.

Fifth, high-level waste comes from the production of nuclear power. Every aspect of producing nuclear energy contributes to global warming. We need to invest in sustainable energy that does not present such huge waste disposal problems.

Sixth, the production of nuclear energy presents all the same hazards to workers and the environment that go with producing nuclear weapons.

What should we do? First, stop creating nuclear waste and develop truly clean energy. We don't need nuclear energy. Second, encase current waste on site where it is generated rather than risking transportation through American communities and into New Mexico which is already too contaminated.

I hope you will seriously consider this. It will tremendously affect future generations.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Wamhoff

cc: President Obama
Senator Tom Udall
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Congressman Ben Ray Lujan